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Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

DISPATCHED BY

In the Matter of)

Cellular Service and Other)
Commercial Mobile Radio Services)
in the Gulf of Mexico)

WT Docket No. 97-112 ✓

Amendment of Part 22 of the Commission's)
Rules to Provide for Filing and Processing)
of Applications for Unserved Areas in the)
Cellular Service and to Modify Other)
Cellular Rules)

CC Docket No. 90-6

ORDER**Adopted: May 30, 1997****Released: May 30, 1997**

By the Chief, Commercial Wireless Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In this *Order*, we review Petroleum Communications, Inc.'s (PetroCom's) request to extend the comment filing period for the Commission's Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making (*Second FNPRM*) in the above-referenced proceeding and 360° Communications Company's (360°) opposition to that request.¹ For the reasons discussed below, we grant an extension of time to file comments in this proceeding from June 2, 1997 until July 2, 1997.

II. BACKGROUND

2. On April 16, 1997, the Commission released the *Second FNPRM* reexamining cellular service rules for the Gulf of Mexico Service Area (GMSA). The *Second FNPRM* also proposed licensing and service rules for operations in the Gulf of Mexico by other Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) providers, including Personal Communication Services (PCS) and Specialized Mobile Radio (SMR). Pursuant to the *Second FNPRM* and Sections 1.415 and 1.419

¹ See "In the Matter of Cellular Service and Other Commercial Mobile Radio Services in the Gulf of Mexico," *Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, FCC 97-110, WT Docket 97-112, __ Fed. Reg. __ (rel. April 16, 1997).

of the Commission's rules, initial comments were due to the Commission on or before June 2, 1997.²

3. On May 22, 1997, PetroCom filed a request for a 30-day extension of time for parties to file responsive comments.³ In support of this request, PetroCom argues that the Commission's proposals represent an assessment of a complicated record.⁴ PetroCom contends that it, and other parties, are faced with the arduous task of reviewing existing and proposed cellular facilities in 33 Metropolitan Service Area (MSA) and Rural Service Area (RSA) markets along hundreds of miles of GMSA coastline.⁵ PetroCom further states that it must develop a propagation formula to define existing service areas as well as compile data concerning both boat traffic and demand for wireless service in the GMSA.⁶

4. 360° filed an opposition to PetroCom's request on May 29, 1997.⁷ 360° argues that PetroCom has failed to make a requisite showing under the Commission's rules that an extension of time is warranted.⁸ Moreover, 360° contends that any further delays in this proceeding would be contrary to public interest and would continue to impede cellular service to beachfront areas abutting the Gulf of Mexico.⁹

III. DISCUSSION

5. Because of the complex nature of the referenced docket proceedings and the importance of this rule making's objectives, we find that an extension of time to file comments best serves the public interest. In the *Second FNPRM*, the Commission seeks (1) to establish rules that will reduce conflict between GMSA licensees and land-based cellular service providers, (2) to provide regulatory flexibility to GMSA licensees while also recognizing the transitory nature of water-based cellular cites, and (3) to award licenses in a manner which maximizes the best use of the spectrum while providing high quality service to the Gulf's highly traveled coastal

² See 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415, 1.419.

³ See Petroleum Communications, Inc.'s "Request for Extension to File Comments," WT Docket No. 97-112, CC Docket No. 90-6 (May 22, 1997).

⁴ *Id.* at 2.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ See 360° Communications Company's "Opposition of 360° Communications Company to Request for Extension to File Comments," WT Docket No. 97-112, CC Docket No. 90-6 (May 29, 1997).

⁸ *Id.* at 2-3.

⁹ *Id.*

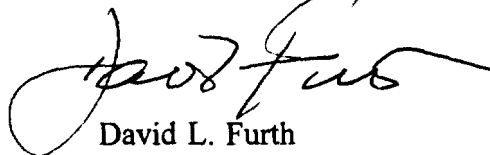
waters. In an effort to accomplish these goals, the Commission has sought comprehensive comments from the parties regarding the advantages and disadvantages of its various proposals. To the extent that a 30-day extension of time will allow the parties to provide comments that are fully responsive to the Commission's inquiries, we believe that PetroCom's request should be granted and made applicable to all interested parties to this proceeding.

IV. CONCLUSION AND ORDERING CLAUSES

6. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that the Request for Extension to File Comments by Petroleum Communications, Inc. IS GRANTED. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to applicable procedures set forth in Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, interested parties may file comments on or before July 2, 1997 and reply comments on or before August 2, 1997.¹⁰

7. This action is taken pursuant to authority delegated in Sections 0.131 and 0.331 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.131 and 0.331.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION



David L. Furth
Chief, Commercial Wireless Division
Wireless Communications Bureau

¹⁰ See 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415, 1.419 (1995).